

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P 040030Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4625

INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR MX

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA CALLS COMMUNISTS FASCISTS

1. PROVOKED BY GROUP OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS WHO MARCHED PAST PRESIDENTIAL TRIBUNE DURING ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE WITH RAISED CLENCHED FISTS, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA BLASTED THE "SO-CALLED COMMUNIST PARTY" AND EQUATED ITS YOUTH BRANCH WITH THE TERRORIST 23 OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE. IN AN INTERVIEW AFTER THE PARADE THE PRESIDENT SAID THE CLENCHED FIST SYMBOL EXISTED ONLY IN COUNTRIES WHERE LIBERTIES ARE OPPRESSED, WHERE INTELLECTUALS, SOCIAL LEADERS AND YOUTHFUL DISSENTERS ARE JAILED AND TREATED AS PSYCHIATRIC CASES. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM) WAS "PROFOUNDLY REACTIONARY AND FASCIST" AND EVEN SUGGESTED THE PCM HAD TIES WITH "BAD MEXICANS" COLLABORATING WITH U.S. NEWSPAPERS WAGING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE STABILITY OF THE MEXICAN PESO.

2. THE PCM REACTED SHARPLY MAY 2 TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS. IN A PRESS BULLETIN IT DENIED THAT ITS YOUTH WING HAD ANY LINKS WITH TERRORIST GROUPS, POINTED OUT THAT THE PRI YOUTH AND PCM COLLABORATED IN SUPPORT OF REVOLUTIONARY GOALS, AND DEFENDED THE CLENCHED FIST AS A SYMBOL OF PROLETARIAN UNITY.

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3. COMMENT: WHATEVER ONE MAY THINK OF ECHEVERRIA'S DEF-

INITIONS OF "COMMUNIST", "FASCIST", "REACTIONARY", HE
HAS SOMETIMES MADE GOOD USE OF THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY
OF MEXICO'S RADICAL LEFT TO ACCUSATIONS OF THIS KIND.
GIVEN HIS PRESENT PREOCCUPATIONS, HIS PREDILECTION FOR
"IMPERIALISM" (AND THROUGH FREQUENTLY TRANSPARENT
EUPEHMISM, THE US) AS A TARGET, AND HIS RECENT
DENUNCIATION OF "FASCISTIC" PLOTTING AGAINST MEXICO, HIS
BLAST AT COMMUNISM WAS A WELCOME SURPRISE.

4. MEXICAN CONTACTS HAVE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT OUR
POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS RECENT MEXICAN PREOCCUPATIONS
HAS ALSO HAD A FAVORABLE EFFECT ON ECHEVERRIA AS SEEN IN
THIS OCCASION.

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